

spiritedness—I want everyone to understand that, from my personal belief, everyone is entitled to their day in court, everyone is entitled to be presumed innocent. I'm not making accusations that you should consider convictions. But should there be a conviction, I believe that this body is not above the law, and we should keep it that way. And I will pledge myself to do so. And I think every Member of this body would feel the same way. And that's why these little ethical slips give the impression that somebody might be above the law.

We are a nation of laws, we are not a nation of men. And being a nation of laws, we expect everyone, no matter what their status, to abide by those laws. This body is a body of rules, and we expect Members of this body to abide by those rules; and the failure to abide has consequences.

So even though I'm trying to be as friendly as I can on these issues, I want everybody to understand that those are principles that this country stands on and that this body stands on, and I intend to make sure that those principles stand firm. I think my colleagues across the board, both sides of the aisle, in their heart of hearts will agree with me. And I think it was a right policy when a Member, even though a close, personal friend of mine, was accused of something, that under our rules he had to step down until his issues were resolved. And I think it's unfortunate that the Democrats, under their rules, don't take the same position; that if a serious accusation of misbehavior or breaking the law is raised against a Member in the form of an indictment, that that person has to step down from positions of leadership. Both sides should have the same rules. Unfortunately, we don't have it that way.

Still, I defend every person's right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. And I will stand for any Member of this House, no matter what his party affiliation, to preserve that right on his behalf because I have preserved that right on behalf of thousands of people who were convicted by a jury of their peers of heinous crimes, and yet that was a right guaranteed by our Constitution. It's a right guaranteed to our Members. So make no mistake, I make no accusations of guilt because that's not appropriate under our system, but I do raise questions of ethical lapses, and I will continue to do so.

I thank the Speaker for allowing me to speak here tonight. I'm going to yield back my time now. And I want to thank my colleagues who joined me here tonight. And we will be doing some more of this, and I hope other colleagues will join us and give us their ideas.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIMES). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule

I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2215

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER) at 9 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1106, HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-21) on the resolution (H. Res. 190) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1106) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PERRIELLO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for the week of February 23 on account of family illness.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today after 3:30 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of family obligations.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HARE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HARE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SESTAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KISSELL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PAUL) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, March 3 and 4.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, March 3 and 4.

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOODLATTE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JENKINS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 26, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

661. A letter from the OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, DoD, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures and Support for Non-Federal Entities Authorized to Operate on Department of Defense (DoD) Installations [DoD-2006-OS-0041; 0790-AI35] received February 10, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

662. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of the Strategic Materials Protection Board meeting on December 12, 2008, pursuant to Public Law 109-364, section 843; to the Committee on Armed Services.

663. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No.: FEMA-8055] received February 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

664. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID FEMA-2008-0020; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-B-1027] received February 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

665. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received February 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

666. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Changes For Certain Disclosures — received February 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

667. A letter from the Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Discretionary WIC Vendor Provisions in the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, Public Law 108-265 [FNS-2006-0035] (RIN: 0584-AD47) received February 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

668. A letter from the President and CEO, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, transmitting the Corporation's annual report regarding the activities and expenditures of the independent production service, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 396(k)(3)(B)(iii)(V); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

669. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 19-08 informing of an intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding among the United States and the United Kingdom concerning Operations and Support of Advanced Extremely High Frequency Military Satellite